#### Summer 2008 Volume 28

# **ECOD News**

FRIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE DISABLED

95 Franklin Street · Room 626 · Buffalo, NY 14202



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# High Hurdles

#### Come Ride with Us!

The High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding Program of Suburban Adult Services Inc. (SASi) offers cognitively, emotionally and physically challenged adults and children, 3 years of age and older, unique opportunities for growth and development by learning to care for and about horses while mastering riding skills. Since opening its own facility in Sardinia, New York in December 2006, the number of lessons the program offers has increased significantly. Lessons run from March through November with openings still available for riders in the remaining three sessions of the 2008 riding season.

A session of therapeutic riding at High Hurdles is six weeks in length. One hour classes are offered Monday through Friday during the day and evening, and on Saturday mornings. Classes are limited to 4-5 riders with individualized lesson plans for each rider. Volunteers who are trained by High Hurdles assist the riders during classes by providing physical, emotional and instructional support.

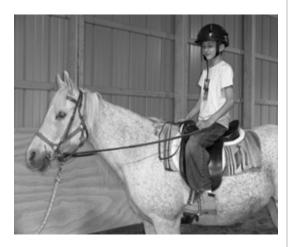
High Hurdles is also a Special Olympics Training Club and provides the only Special Olympics Equestrian Program in Erie County. This fall, High Hurdles will once again host the Special Olympics Equestrian Competition for the area.

High Hurdles will also celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this fall. What started as a small program with a handful of riders, four horses and one part-time instructor has grown through the years into a full time program that serves more than 300 riders with eight horses, three instructors and over 80 community volunteers. A celebration is being planned to mark 10 years of excellence.

For information concerning riding or volunteering at High Hurdles, please contact Judy Feine, Equine Services Supervisor, at 716-496-5551 or email <a href="mailto:hhurdles@sasinc.org">hhurdles@sasinc.org</a>.



Ben enjoys the High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding Program.



# DIAL 2 1 1

Central Referral Service, Inc. in partnership with United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, operates the new service which is available to Western New York residents 24 hours a day/7 days a week. 2-1-1 is housed in the new Erie County Public Safety Campus, working closely with 911 for all non-emergency issues.

- 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals and families in need and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.
- 2-1-1 makes it possible for people in need to navigate the complex and evergrowing maze of human services agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, 2-1-1 encourages prevention and fosters selfsufficiency.
- 2-1-1 has trained skilled professionals called Information and Referral (I&R) specialists taking calls. They assess callers' needs and help the callers determine their options and the best course of action. Additionally, I&R specialists are trained to determine whether a caller may be eligible for other programs, to intervene in crisis situations, and to advocate on behalf of the caller, as needed.

211 offers an excellent opportunity to help the community by volunteering some of your time to assist consumers in need. To reach our offices, please dial

2-1-1 or 1-888-696-9211

2-1-1 provides callers in need with information about and referrals to human services such as:

- Basic Human Needs Resources: food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
- Physical and Mental Health Resources: health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- Work Supports: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs.
- Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities: adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services
- Children, Youth and Family Supports: After school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring and protective services.
- Volunteer opportunities and donations.



### The Paul Bulger Vision Clinic

The Paul Bulger Vision Clinic treats a broader audience, reaching additional patients with additional services. The clinic's mission is to provide holistic health care from a vision perspective. Treatment will address not only vision loss, but other physical, cognitive and emotional issues related to visual impairment.

This approach—offering the most affordable and highest levels of health care possible, with full consideration of patients' emotional and physical well-being—will help individuals meet their physical challenges, continuing to live at home with the best possible quality of life and independence as a goal.

Since diabetes, arthritis and depression often contribute to vision loss or result from it, comprehensive, coordinated services, outlined by a medical doctor in a plan of care, will target these health conditions and will include rehabilitative and preventative medicine, low vision clinical care, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, health education, nursing and social case work.

The purpose of these assessments will be to determine each individual's highest possible level of health and independence, and plan a course to enhance overall quality of life.

For more information please call 882-1025 and speak to Betty Wagner ext. 237 or Nancy Smith ext. 238.



The SCOOTER Store is America's leading supplier of scooters and power chairs for people with limited mobility. Founded in 1991 and covering 47 states, The SCOOTER Store has locations and a network of service specialists across America.

Doug and Susanna Harrison founded The SCOOTER Store as a dream to help people with limited mobility regain freedom and independence. Based on a core ideology, "Always Do the Right Thing," The SCOOTER Store has grown from a vision into a highly successful national enterprise with over 1,000 employees.

The SCOOTER Store maintains strict compliance with Medicare regulations and works through the Power Mobility Coalition to ensure additional consumer safeguards and industry standards such as ongoing customer service and product maintenance are available.

The SCOOTER Store is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC) and is Senior Approved, further confirming The SCOOTER Store's enunciated principle to "always do the right thing."

Your local account manager is Michael Krym and can be reached at 866-214-5328. He is able to handle and assist with Insurance verification, a doctor's office visit, In-Home demonstrations, Insurance paperwork, and scheduling a delivery of a power chair or scooter.

# Legal Services

#### For the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged





Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York Inc. has provided free civil legal services to individuals age sixty and over since 1978. The majority of our funding is provided by the federal Older Americans Act through the Erie County Department of Senior Services. The federal Older Americans Act requires that we target economically and socially disadvantaged individuals age sixty and over. However, we have some grants that have no age limits. For example, Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Project enables us to help persons with disabilities of any age, as long they meet certain income guidelines. In addition, persons with disabilities of any income level can get help with their prescription drug coverage through our office, also without regard to their age. Anyone who wants information about our free civil legal services should call (716) 853-3087 and speak to our receptionist, Kathleen Phillips.

The Erie County Office for the Disabled makes no endorsement of products or programs described.

This publication is for informational purposes only.

Erie County Office for the Disabled 95 Franklin Street Buffalo, New York 14202

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED